

VOTING INFORMATION NEWS

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) ✓ ✓ For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

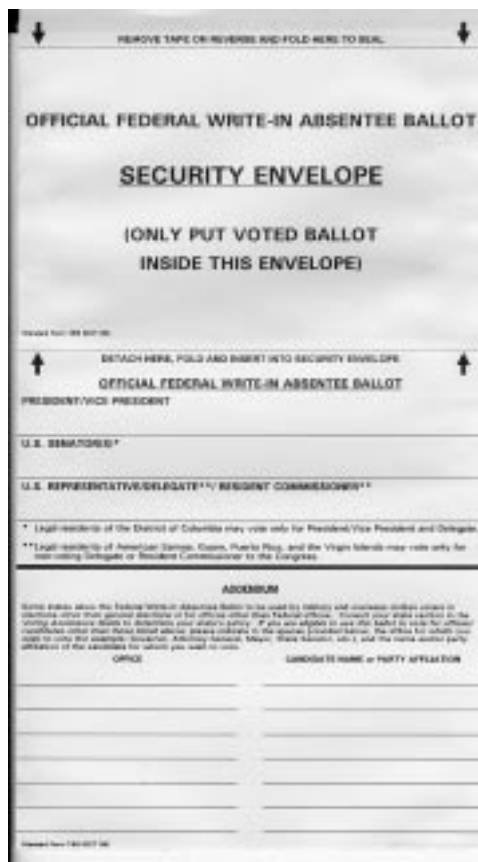
Ensure your supply today

The FWAB Can Help Save Your Vote!

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186) can play a critical role in ensuring votes count in the November 3, 1998 general election. As a result, Embassy/Consulate and military Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) as well as VAOs in organizations of American citizens overseas should ensure they distribute one FWAB to each voter they assist.

The FWAB is pre-positioned overseas for citizens to use if they determine that their regular ballot will not be received in time for them to vote the regular ballot and return it to the state by the general election deadline. While some states have expanded use of the FWAB, in most cases, you must meet all three of the following conditions before using the FWAB:

- (1) The ballot must be submitted from outside the U.S. or have a foreign mailing address or APO/FPO postmark;
- (2) The application from the overseas voter for a regular state absentee ballot must be received by the local election official at least 30 days before the general election; and



FWAB Security Envelope & Ballot Portion

cial at least 30 days before the general election; and

(3) The voted FWAB must be received by the local election official in time to meet the state deadline for receipt of the regular state absentee ballot.

The FWAB is only valid when all the above conditions apply and the regular ballot has not been received.

What is the Addendum portion for?

In 1995 the FWAB was revised by adding an *Addendum* to the ballot portion to account for the fact that some states allow the FWAB to be used by military and overseas civilian voters in elections other than the general election, or for offices other than federal offices. Since its adoption in 1988, Connecticut, Iowa, Montana, Virginia and West Virginia have expanded its use. Established state-by-state guidelines for use of the FWAB are outlined in Chapter 3 of the *1998-99 Voting Assistance Guide (VAG)*.

(see **FWAB**, pg. 4)

VIN now on-line!

New Look for www.fvap.gov

Have you visited the official Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP's) Web site recently? If you have, you've probably noticed significant changes in format and content. If you haven't, plan to visit www.fvap.gov soon to learn more about absentee voting as it applies to citizens vot-

ing under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*.

The Home Page has been re-designed to allow for quicker downloading of the images and text, particularly by users on slower modems or those with overseas connections. In addition, the information on the page has been grouped into 4 broad categories to allow viewers to quickly identify their area of interest:

Learn About Voting provides topic-based links to information about the voting process as it relates to citizens in the Uniformed Services, their family members,

(see **Web**, pg. 4)

Effective March 28, 1998

FVAP Management Changes

After 31 years of distinguished government service, Phyllis J. Taylor has retired as Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP). Deputy Director John Uschold has been appointed Director (Acting) until his planned retirement later in June, at which time Polli Brunelli will become Director of the FVAP. Mr. Uschold has been FVAP Deputy Director since 1992. Ms. Brunelli, FVAP's Director, International and Government Affairs Program, has been with the government for 23 years and joined the FVAP early in 1995.

(see **FVAP**, pg. 4)

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Query via Internet, phone, fax or mail!

FVAP Ombudsman Service

The Federal Voting Assistance Program's Ombudsman Service is there to help you when voting concerns cannot be solved locally. You can contact the FVAP staff for service by e-mail at vote@fvap.gov; on the Web at www.fvap.gov; by phone using the toll-free numbers below; by fax at (703) 693-5507 or DSN 223-5507; or by regular mail at the address listed on page 2.

The toll-free numbers below will take you directly into the DoD Voting Information Center, with the option of transferring to the FVAP office for assistance from our Ombudsman Service. The office is staffed during normal business hours on Eastern Standard Time. An answering machine is available during the evening hours. When leaving a message from overseas please be sure to leave your entire phone number including any international prefixes required so that we are able to respond to your voting question in a timely manner.



In the U.S.	1-800-438-8683
Antigua	1-800-326-0220
Australia	0014-800-128509
Bahamas	1-800-995-0920
Bahrain	800-621
Barbados	800-534-2104
Belgium	0800-11-455
Bermuda	800-623-0077
Brazil	000-811-926-5585
Canada	800-995-0920
Chile	00-020-3071
Colombia	980-12-0896
Costa Rica	0-800-011-0125
Denmark	800-10-169
Dominican Rep.	800-751-7131
Finland	9800-156-284
France	0-800-900-156
Germany	013-081-9277
Greece	008-001-22-586
Hong Kong	800-6984
Hungary	00-800-11-158
Ireland	1-800-557-083
Israel	177-102-4012
Italy	1-678-72-444
Indonesia	00-800-1-923-3685
Japan	0031-11-2429

Liechtenstein	1-155-4514
Luxembourg	0-800-2499
Malaysia	800-2170
Mexico	95-800-010-1438
Monaco	0-59-00-156
Netherlands	06-022-2499
Neth. Antilles	001-800-753-0767
New Zealand	0-800-44-0799
Norway	800-12093
Panama	0083-28027-4197
Philippines	1-800-116-0009
Portugal	0501-8-13-035
San Marino	1-678-72-444
Singapore	800-1300-210
South Korea	0078-14-800-0203
Spain	900-93-1108
Sweden	020-793-503
Switzerland	155-4514
Taiwan	0080-10-3153
Thailand	001-800-1-1-923-6685
Trinidad & Tobago	1-800-934-7340
United Kingdom	0-800-895-7403
Uruguay	000-411-923-7985
Vatican City	1678-72-4444

Voting Assistance Officers

"To Do" This Month

[] Encourage participation in primary elections. There are 23 primaries scheduled for the months of May and June. In many cases, requests for registration must be received at least 30 days prior to the election. Consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* at www.fvap.gov/publications for state-by-state details and encourage all UOCAVA citizens to participate.

[] Visit the FVAP's Web site at www.fvap.gov often for up-to-date information and materials. Most FVAP publications are now available on-line. In addition, on-line versions of this newsletter and news releases are posted on the site on a regular basis.

[] Ensure you have adequate supplies of the Federal Writer-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). See article pg. 1 for details. The FWAB's usage may be expanded on an *ad hoc* basis by the states.

[] Make sure the installation or Embassy/Consulate operator knows where to refer callers requiring voting assistance.

Training for Voting Assistance Officers Now on the Web

Visit www.fvap.gov
for details!

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Voting Information News provides information for citizens and Voting Assistance Officers and is published monthly by the FVAP.

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Internet Access:
E-mail: vote@fvap.gov
<http://www.fvap.gov>



Write To:
Federal Voting Assistance Program
Pentagon, Room 1B457
Washington, DC 20301-1155
Phone: 703-695-0663 **Voting Information Center:** 703-693-6500
(800) 438-8683 DSN 223-6500
DSN 225-0663 Toll-free Numbers (pg. 4)
Fax: 703-693-5507
DSN 223-5507

Note: Copying or using VIN articles in other publications, etc. is encouraged.

1998 State Primary Election Calendar

State	State Primary Date	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	Offices to be nominated for the General Election		
			FEDERAL		STATE
			U.S. Senator	U.S. Representative	Governor
Alabama	June 2	June 30	Yes	7	Yes
Alaska	August 25	—	Yes	1	Yes
American Samoa	—	—	—	—	—
Arizona	September 8	—	Yes	6	Yes
Arkansas	May 19	June 9	Yes	4	Yes
California	June 2	—	Yes	52	Yes
Colorado	August 11	—	Yes	6	Yes
Connecticut	September 15	—	Yes	6	Yes
Delaware	September 12	—	—	1	—
District of Columbia	September 15	—	—	1 Delegate	(Mayor)
Florida	September 1	October 1	Yes	23	Yes
Georgia	July 21	August 11	Yes	11	Yes
Guam	September 5	—	—	1	Yes
Hawaii	September 19	—	Yes	2	Yes
Idaho	May 26	—	Yes	2	Yes
Illinois	March 17	—	Yes	20	Yes
Indiana	May 5	—	Yes	10	—
Iowa	June 2	—	Yes	5	Yes
Kansas	August 4	—	Yes	4	Yes
Kentucky	May 26	—	Yes	6	—
Louisiana	October 3	—	Yes	7	—
Maine	June 9	—	—	2	Yes
Maryland	September 15	—	Yes	8	Yes
Massachusetts	September 15	—	—	10	Yes
Michigan	August 4	—	—	16	Yes
Minnesota	September 15	—	—	8	Yes
Mississippi	June 2	June 23	—	5	—
Missouri	August 4	—	Yes	9	—
Montana	June 2	—	—	1	—
Nebraska	May 12	—	—	3	Yes
Nevada	September 1	—	Yes	2	Yes
New Hampshire	September 8	—	Yes	2	Yes
New Jersey	June 2	—	Yes	13	—
New Mexico	June 2	—	—	3	Yes
New York	September 15	—	Yes	31	Yes
North Carolina	May 5	June 2	Yes	12	—
North Dakota	June 9	—	Yes	1	—
Ohio	May 5	—	Yes	19	Yes
Oklahoma	August 25	September 15	Yes	6	Yes
Oregon	May 19	—	Yes	5	Yes
Pennsylvania	May 19	—	Yes	21	Yes
Puerto Rico	—	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	September 15	—	—	2	Yes
South Carolina	June 9	June 23	Yes	6	Yes
South Dakota	June 2	June 16	Yes	1	Yes
Tennessee	August 6	—	—	9	Yes
Texas	March 10	April 14	—	30	Yes
Utah	June 23	—	Yes	3	—
Vermont	September 8	—	Yes	1	Yes
Virgin Islands	September 8	—	—	1	Yes
Virginia	June 9	—	—	11	—
Washington	September 15	—	Yes	9	—
West Virginia	May 12	—	—	3	—
Wisconsin	September 8	—	Yes	9	Yes
Wyoming	August 18	—	—	1	Yes

State Department: Office of American Citizens ServicesVoting Action Officer: Mr. Patrick Hegerty **tel:** (202) 647-6060 **tel FTS:** 8-647-4994, **fax:** (202) 647-6201**Service Voting Action Officers**Dept. of the Army: Mr. Tom Feazell **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **tel DSN:** 221-4530, **fax:** (703) 325-4532, **fax DSN:** 221-4532
E-mail: feazellt@hoffman-emh1.army.milDept. of the Navy: Mr. Ed Roscoe **tel:** (703) 614-3248, **tel DSN:** 224-3248, **fax:** (703) 693-6471, **fax DSN:** 223-6471
E-mail: p662j@bupers.navy.milDept. of the Air Force: Mr. John Lowrance **tel:** (210) 652-7849, **toll-free:** (800) 558-1404 **tel DSN:** 487-7849,
DSN fax 487-5982, **Commercial fax** (210) 652-5982 **E-mail:** lowrancy@hq.afpc.af.milMarine Corps: GySgt Johnnie Jackson **tel:** (703) 696-2026 **tel DSN:** 426-2026, **fax:** (703) 696-2068, **fax DSN:** 426-2068
Internet: jacksonj@hq1.usmc.mil **E-mail:** jackson@mhp@hqmc **ELMS:** [GMHPO3:HQIHQMC]U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Reggie Sealey **tel:** (202) 267-2239, **fax:** (202) 267-4823
E-mail: rsealy@comdt.uscg.milAll of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP WEB Site <http://www.fvap.gov>

Please share this copy of VIN with others.

(FWAB, from pg. 1)

Also, on an *ad hoc* basis, states may allow expanded use of the FWAB when unique circumstances exist that may require use of this ballot to help ensure a person may vote. Should a state expand the use of the FWAB, VAOs and eligible citizens will be notified by the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) through voting news releases, electronic voting messages and the Voting Information Center (VIC). The DoD VIC may be accessed by calling Commercial (703) 693-6500, DSN (military) 223-6500 or the toll free numbers listed on page 2.

Where are FWABs available?

The FWAB may be obtained through normal military and Department of State distribution channels. Information on how to obtain the FWAB, and other materials, is available from Service Voting Action Officers (SVAOs) in the Armed Forces and through the Department of State VAO. Many organizations of United States citizens overseas not affiliated with the Federal government and overseas corporations that employ U.S. citizens also maintain a stock of the FWAB. Overseas citizens may also obtain the FWAB by contacting the FVAP directly. Contact information can be found at the bottom of pages 2 and 3 and at www.fvap.gov.

What if I also receive the regular ballot?

Citizens using the FWAB should always vote the regular ballot from the state regardless of when it is received, because there are cases where the FVAP may take legal action with a state and require late counting of ballots from overseas citizens. Of course, local election officials (LEOs) will count only one ballot per voter, whichever meets the state deadline for receipt of ballots. If both ballots arrive by the state deadline, LEOs will discard the FWAB and count the regular ballot only.

(FVAP, from pg. 1)

During Ms. Taylor's tenure, the participation rate for members of the Uniformed Services was consistently higher than the rate for the general voting age population, reaching 64% in the November 1996 election. Participation by overseas civilian citizens increased from 31% to 37% from 1992 to 1996.

Also during this time, the states and territories were very active in enacting many of the FVAP's legislative initiatives and recommendations to facilitate the absentee voting process. Seven states enacted legislation allowing for the faxing of election materials, bringing to 43 the total number states allowing for this alternative procedure.

In addition, Ms. Taylor was successful in negotiating with the states to allow faxing of election materials on an *ad hoc* basis during three major military operations involving our men and women in uniform: Operation Uphold Democracy (Haiti), Operation Vigilant Warrior (Persian Gulf) and Operation Joint Endeavor (Bosnia).

Mr. Uschold and Ms. Brunelli praised Ms. Taylor's efforts on behalf of UOCAVA citizens during her tenure as Director and assured FVAP's customers of the Program's continued adherence to excellence and service.

They both stressed that they will "continue our tradition of real-time service to our citizens and state and local government officials."

The FVAP, can be contacted by e-mail at vote@fvap.gov or using the information on page 2 of this newsletter.

(Web, from pg. 1)

and overseas citizens. The site includes links to the Training Presentation for Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) as well as on-line voting residency guidelines for UOCAVA citizens. The Training Presentation includes a step-by-step tutorial on completing the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA);

FVAP Publications provides on-line access to major FVAP publications including the 1998-99 *Voting Assistance Guide*, the newsletter and news releases. The site also provides information on how to obtain hard copies of these materials;

Additional FVAP Resources provides direct links to the 1998 Election Calendars, the Voting Information Center and other important resources for VAOs.

Frequently Asked Questions is an on-line version of the *How to Do It-- Vote Absentee* brochure which answers "frequently asked questions" about the absentee voting process.

Links to other official sites of interest have been re-grouped by category under *Other Links* and you can also contact the FVAP directly by using the e-mail link provided.

The site is updated on a regular basis and new features will be available soon. For example, we are working on providing links to identifying your members of Congress and State Governors and contacting them by e-mail.

Please visit the site often and tell us what you think. All feedback is appreciated!

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Washington, DC 20301-1155



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